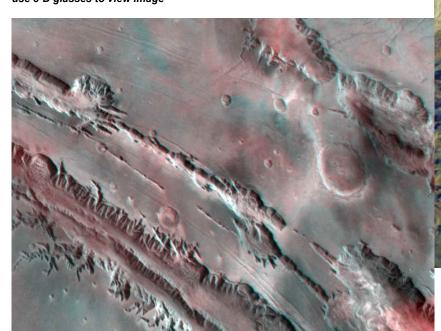
CANYONS

Grand Canyon, Arizona, USA, Earth

For over 5 million years the Colorado River has been carving the Grand Canyon in northern Arizona. At its widest, the canyon spans 29 kilometers and is 1.8 kilometers deep. Although one of the most impressive canyons on Earth, the Grand Canyon is dwarfed by the Valles Marineris canyon system on Mars.

3-D Tour of the Solar System ©Lunar and Planetary Institute, 1997 use 3-D glasses to view image



Valles Marineris, Mars

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The canyons of the Valles Marineris are up to 10 kilometers deep.

Together, they are long enough to span the United States. This scene shows the western part of the Valles Marineris. The canyons were formed by faulting caused by tensional stresses fracturing the martian crust. The canyons were enlarged by landslides. Some of the side canyons are large enough to swallow the Grand Canyon.